

# Constantine Republican

VOLUME I.

CONSTANTINE, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 28, 1836.

NUMBER 26.

## CONSTANTINE REPUBLICAN.

PUBLISHED BY  
MUNGER & COWDERY.

Every Wednesday Morning, at the stand formerly occupied by Maj. L. J. Ullman, corner of Canine and Water streets.

To all subscribers who commenced previous to

number 20—

Three Dollars per annum in advance, two dollars and fifty cents when paid at the expiration of the year. But—

To those commencing with or after No. 30—

Three Dollars per annum in advance, or \$2.50 when paid at the expiration of the year. But—

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate

and House of Representatives:

ADDRESSING to you the last annual message I shall ever present to the Congress of the United States, it is a source of the most heartfelt satisfaction to be able to congratulate you on the high state of prosperity which our beloved country has attained; with no causes at home or abroad to lessen the confidence with which we look to the future for continuing proofs of the capacity of our free institutions to produce all the fruits of good government, the general condition of our affairs may well excite our national pride.

I cannot avoid congratulating you and my country, particularly, on the success of the efforts made during my administration, by the executive and legislature, in conformity with the sincere, constant and earnest desire of the people to maintain peace, and establish cordial relations with all foreign powers. Our gratitude is due to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and I invite you to unite with me in offering to Him fervent supplication, that his providential care may ever be extended to those who follow us, enabling them to avoid the dangers and the horrors of war, consistently with a just and indispensable regard to the rights and honor of our country. But, although the present state of our foreign affairs, standing without important change, as they did when you separated in July last, is flattering in the extreme, I regret to say, that many questions of an interesting character at issue with other powers, are yet undischarged. Amongst the most prominent of these is that of our Northernmost Boundary. With an undiminished confidence in the sincere desire of His Britannic Majesty's Government to adjust that question, I am not yet in possession of the precise grounds upon which it proposes a satisfactory adjustment.

With France our diplomatic relations have been resumed, and under circumstances which attest the disposition of both governments to preserve a mutually beneficial intercourse, and foster those amicable feelings which are so strongly required by the true interests of the two countries. With Russia, Austria, Prussia, Naples, Sweden, and Denmark the best understanding exists, and our commercial intercourse is gradually expanding itself with them. It is encouraged in all these countries except Naples, by their mutually advantageous and liberal treaty stipulations with us.

The claims of our citizens on Portugal are admitted to be just, but provision for the payment of them has been unfortunately delayed by frequent political changes in that kingdom.

The blessings of peace have not been secured to Spain. Our connections with that country are on the best footing, with the exception of the burdens still imposed upon our commerce with her possessions out of Europe.

The claims of American citizens for losses sustained at the bombardment of Antwerp have been presented to the governments of Holland and Belgium, and will be pressed in due season for settlement.

With Brazil and all our neighbors of this continent, we continue to maintain relations of amity and concord, extending our commerce with them as far as the resources of the people and the policy of their governments will permit. The just and long standing claims of our citizens upon some of them, are yet sources of dissatisfaction and complaint. No danger is apprehended, however, that they will not be peacefully and fairly acknowledged and paid by all, unless the irritating effect of her struggle with Texas should unfortunately make our immediate neighbor, Mexico, an exception.

It is already known to you, by the correspondence between the two governments, communicated at your last session, that our conduct in relation to that struggle is regulated by the same principles that governed us in the dispute between Spain and Mexico herself, and I trust, that it will be found on the most severe scrutiny, that our acts have strictly corresponded with our professions.

That the inhabitants of the United States should feel strong prepossessions for the one party is not surprising. But this circumstance should, of itself, teach us great caution, lest it lead us into the great error of suffering public policy to be regulated by partiality or prejudice; and there are considerations connected with the possible result of the contest between the two parties, of so much delicacy and importance to the United States that our character requires that we should neither anticipate events, nor attempt to control them.

The known desire of the Texans to become a part of our system, although its gratification depends upon the reconciliation of various and conflicting interests, necessarily a work of time, and uncertain in itself, is calculated to expose our conduct to misconstruction in the eyes of the world. There are already those who, in difficult to principles themselves, and prone to suspect the want of it in others, charge us with ambitious designs and insidious policy. You will perceive by the accompanying documents, that the extraordinary mission from Mexico has been terminated, on the sole grounds that the obligations of this government to itself and to Mexico, under treaty stipulations, have compelled me to trust a discretionary authority to a higher officer of our army, to advance into a territory claimed as part of Texas, if necessary to protect our own or the neighboring frontier from Indian depredations. In the opinion of the Mexican functionary, who has just left us, the honor of this country will be wounded by American soldiers entering, with the most manifest avowed purposes, upon ground from which the followers of his government had been expelled, and over which there is at present no certainty of a serious effort on the part being made to re-establish its dominion. The departure of this Minister was the more singular, as he was apprised that the sufficiency of the causes assigned for the advance of our troops by the commanding General, had been seriously

doubted by me; and that there was every reason to suppose that the troops of the U. States—their commander having had time to ascertain the truth or falsehood of the information upon which they had marched to Nacogdoches—would be either there in perfect accordance with the principles admitted to be just in his conference with the Secretary of State, by the Mexican minister himself, or were already withdrawn in consequence of the impressive warnings their commanding officer had received from the Department of War. It is hoped and believed that his government will take a more dispassionate and just view of this subject, and not be disposed to construe a measure of justifiable precaution, made necessary by its known inability, in execution of the stipulations of our treaty, to act upon the frontier, into an encroachment upon its rights or a stain upon its honor.

In the mean time the ancient complaints of injustice, made on behalf of our citizens, are disregarded and causes of dissatisfaction have arisen, some of them of a character requiring prompt remonstrance and ample and immediate redress. I trust, however, by tempering firmness with courtesy, and acting with great forbearance upon every incident that has occurred, or that may happen, to do and to obtain justice, and thus avoid the necessity of again bringing this subject to the view of Congress.

It is my duty to remind you, that no provision has been made to execute our treaty with Mexico, for tracing the boundary line between the two countries. Whatever may be the prospect of Mexico being soon able to execute the treaty on its part, it is proper that we should be, in anticipation, prepared at all times to perform our obligations, without regard to the probable condition of those with whom we have contracted.

The result of the confidential inquiries made into the condition and prospects of the newly declared Texan Government, will be communicated to you in the course of the session.

Commercial treaties, promising great advantages to our enterprising merchants and navigators, have been formed with the distant governments of Muscat and Siam. The negotiations have been exchanged, but have not reached the department of State; copies of the treaties will be transmitted to you, if received before, or published, if arrived after, the close of the present session of Congress.

Nothing has occurred to interrupt the good understanding that has long existed with the Barbary Powers, nor to check the good will which is gradually growing up in our intercourse with the dominions of the government of the distinguished chiefs of the Ottoman empire.

Information has been received at the department of state, that a treaty with the Emperor of Mexico has just been negotiated, which, I hope, will be laid before the Senate previous to the close of the session.

You will perceive, from the report of the secretary of the treasury, that the financial means of the country continue to keep pace with its improvement in all other respects. The receipts into the treasury during the present year, will amount to about \$47,691,599; those from customs being estimated at \$22,523,151; those from lands at about \$24,000,000, and the residue from miscellaneous sources. The expenditures for all objects during the year are estimated to exceed \$32,000,000, which will leave a balance in the treasury for public purposes, on the 1st day of January next, of about \$14,733,059. This sum, with the exception of about five millions, will be transferred to the several states, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the act regulating the deposits of the public money.

The unexpended balances of appropriation, on the 1st day of January next, are estimated at \$14,636,062, exceeding by \$9,655,062, the amount which will be left in the deposit banks, subject to the drafts of the treasurer of the United States, after the contemplated transfers to the several states are made. If, therefore, the future receipts should not be sufficient to meet these outstanding and future appropriations, there will be soon a necessity of using a portion of the funds deposited with the states.

The consequences, apprehended, when the deposits of the last session received a reluctant approval, have been measurably realized. Though an act merely for the deposit of the surplus moneys of the United States in the state treasuries, for safe keeping until they may be wanted for the service of the general government, it has been extensively spoken of as an act to give the money to the several states, and they have been advised to use it as a gift, without regard to the means of refunding it, when called for. Such a suggestion has doubtless been made without due consideration of the obligation of the deposit act, and without a proper attention to the various principles and interests which are affected by it. It is manifest that the law itself cannot sanction such a suggestion, and that, as it now stands, the states have no more authority to receive and use these deposits without intending to return them than any deposit bank or any individual temporarily charged with the safe keeping or application of the public money, would have for converting the same to their private use, without the consent and against the will of the government. But, independently of the violation of public faith and moral obligation which are involved in this suggestion, when examined in reference to the terms of the present deposit act, it is believed that the considerations which should govern the future legislation of Congress on this subject, will be equally conclusive against the adoption of any measure recognizing the principle on which the suggestion has been made.

Considering the intimate connexion of the subject with the financial interest of the country, and its great importance in whatever aspect it can be viewed, I have bestowed upon it the most anxious reflection, and feel it to be my duty to state to

Congress such thoughts as have occurred to me to aid their deliberation in treating it in a manner best calculated to conduce to the common good.

The experience of other nations admonishes us to hasten the extinguishment of the public debt. But it will be in vain that we have congratulated each other upon the disappearance of this evil, if we do not guard against the equally great one of promoting the unnecessary accumulation of public revenue. No political maxim is better established than that which tells us the parent of prodigality, and that no people can hope to perpetuate their liberties under long acquiescence in a policy which taxes them for objects not necessary to the legitimate and real wants of their government. Flattering as is the condition of our country at the present period, because of its unexampled advance in all the steps of social and political improvement, it cannot be disguised that there is a lurking danger apparent in the neglect of this warning truth, and that the time has arrived when the representatives of the people should be employed in devising some more appropriate remedy than now exists, to avert it.

Upon our present revenue system, there is every probability that there will continue to be a surplus beyond the wants of the government; and it has become our duty to decide whether such a result be consistent with the true objects of our government.

Should a surplus be permitted to accumulate beyond the appropriations, it must be retained in the treasury as it now is, or distributed among the people of the states.

To retain it in the treasury, unemployed in any way, is impracticable. It is, besides, against the genius of our free institutions to look up in vaults the treasure of the nation. To take from the people the right of bearing arms, and put their weapons of defence in the hands of a standing army, would be scarcely more dangerous to their liberties than to permit the government to accumulate immense amounts of treasure beyond the supplies necessary to its legitimate wants. Such a treasure would doubtless be employed, at some time, as it has been in other countries, when opportunity tempted ambition.

To collect it merely for distribution to the states would seem to be highly impolitic, if not as dangerous as the proposition to retain it in the treasury. The shortest reflection must satisfy every one that to require the people to pay taxes to the government merely that they be paid back again, is sporting with the substantial interests of the country, and no system which produces such a result can be expected to receive the public countenance. Nothing could be gained by it, even if each individual who contributed a portion of the tax could receive back promptly the same portion, but it is apparent that no system of the kind can ever be enforced, which will not absorb a considerable portion of the money, to be distributed in salaries and commissions to the agents employed in the process, and in the various losses and depreciations which arise; and the practical effect of such an attempt must ever be to burden the people with taxes, not for the purposes beneficial to